

Macdunnoughia confusa (Steph.) – Black Sea coast, Arkulino nr. Primorsko, 22.ix., one.

Autographa gamma (Linn.) – SW BG, Melnik, 14.ix., one; East Rhodopi Mts, Studen Kladenetz, 18.ix., one; East Rhodopi Mts, Meden Buk, 20.ix., one; East Rhodopi Mts, Byalo Pole, 21.ix., one; Black Sea coast, Arkulino nr. Primorsko, 22.ix., one; Black Sea coast, Belija Briag nr. Balchik, 23.ix., one.

Trichoplusia ni (Hüb.) – East Rhodopi Mts, Byalo Pole, 21.ix., one.

Abrostola tripartita (Hufn.) – SW BG, Kresna Gorge, 13.ix., one.

THE PAUPER PUG VERSUS FLETCHER'S PUG *EUPITHECIA EGENARIA* H.-S. (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE)

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THIS PAPER WAS prompted by a short article by Gerry Haggett which appeared recently in Newsletter No. 49 of the Norfolk Moth Survey.

English names for butterflies is a time-honoured tradition, but not so for moths. Eminent lepidopterists such as Barrett, Buckler, Tutt and others were content to produce their great works without the embellishment of vernacular names and I am sure furnishing the microlepidoptera with Heslopean names as in the recently produced index to *Tutt's Hints* would cause the Great Man to turn in his grave. Today, however, the reverse is true and I recall some years ago when preparing my identification guide (Skinner, 1984) that the original publishers insisted that not only every species should have a vernacular name, but, as in *South*, it should take precedence. The overwhelming desire to see my book in print and the vision of possible royalties ensured that my scientific convictions were suppressed. This involved contacting the original captors of new species to Britain, soliciting English names, but at the same time tactfully ensuring that the names chosen were not too outrageous. The other problem faced was where two common names existed and in this decision I passed the buck and followed Bradley and Fletcher (1979).

Returning to the Pug: *E. egenaria* was first reported in Britain by Robin Mere (Mere, 1962) who, as was his prerogative, suggested Fletcher's Pug as the common name. Had Bradley and Fletcher gone along with this the present confusion would not have arisen. However in their wisdom they elected to use Pauper Pug. Haggett suggests modesty may have been the reason behind this choice, but I suspect these two learned authors, well versed in the complicated rituals of zoological nomenclature accepted the name coined in Heslop (1947), for reasons of priority. The name which is derived from the Latin is sensible enough, although the motives for Heslop

to include this species in his list were undoubtedly misguided. However the association between a common and scientific name had been made and there are many names in use today with equally absurd and bizarre origins. Following Bradley and Fletcher's initial decision Pauper Pug has been used in every publication listing *egenaria* including Newton (1984); Skinner (1984); Shirt (1987); Brooks (1991) and Emmet and Heath (1991). Only in Horton (1994) and Haggett (1981) are both English names cited and even in the latter, despite the author's personal convictions, Pauper Pug is given prominence.

At this stage the reader might well ask what the fuss is all about and reason that if one of the names is in common usage why not stick with it. Unfortunately chaos still reigns as in the 1989 updated version of Bradley and Fletcher's indexed list of *British Butterflies and Moths* the vernacular name Fletcher's Pug has been resurrected.

Now although I am not bothered which name is eventually accepted, a new updated edition of my identification guide is in preparation and a choice of name has to be made. I have decided to cringe away from my responsibilities and leave such a monumental decision to others. If this referendum is popular, other great contests for supremacy could be promoted between contenders such as the American Wainscot and White-speck, Blue Underwing and Clifden Nonpareil, Powdered Wainscot and Reed Dagger, etc., etc.

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